



Department of Transport and Planning

GPO Box 2392
Melbourne, VIC 3001 Australia
www.transport.vic.gov.au

Your ref: COR 2022 002595

Our ref: LEX 11684

Niels Gabriels
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

By email only: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Registrar

INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF GAURAV MALHOTRA – RESPONSE TO CORONER'S RECOMMENDATION

I refer to your letter of 11 November 2024 to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) regarding Coroner Audrey Jamieson's Finding without inquest (Finding) concerning the death of Gaurav Malhotra.

DTP extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Mr Malhotra.

The Coroner's recommendation

Pursuant to section 72(2) of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic), Coroner Jamieson made the following recommendation in the Finding:

"With the aim of preventing like deaths and promoting public health and safety, I recommend that the Department of Transport and Planning and Metro Trains Melbourne consider installing anti-trespasser fencing along the railway line at South Crescent in Northcote."

Response to Recommendation

DTP is committed to seeking opportunities to improve safety across the metropolitan rail network. DTP has a list of priority sites developed in 2024 by an independent external consultant using safety incident data along the rail corridor across the metropolitan rail network. This list includes 17 sites considering suicide and self-harm incidents, where corridor fencing should be prioritised as funding becomes available.

In its ongoing efforts, DTP secured \$11.7 million in funding under the FY22-23 state budget which was used to install of 21km of anti-trespasser rail security fencing at previously

identified priority sites, as well as the installation of 650 "Pause. Call. Be Heard" signs to encourage help-seeking behaviours and promote support within the rail environment.

DTP also oversees Metro Trains Melbourne's (MTM) fencing target within the MR4 Franchise Contract. Under the MR4 agreement, MTM is obligated to install 20km of fencing over the full franchise term. By the end of FY24, 14.5km had been delivered. The railway line at South Crescent in Northcote has not been identified as a priority site. DTP will continue to seek funding to fence the priority sites, and review priorities over time.

Please do not hesitate to contact Nelson Dzadey [REDACTED] if you have any questions about the contents of this letter or if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Angela Grice
Executive Director Network Operations

06 / 02 / 2025